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control. In a few instances the city attends to them; but for the most part the matter rests with private concerns. It is with the regulation of such private corporations that this work has to deal.

The book is a compilation of the most important papers that have been presented on the subject at various meetings of the National Municipal League. Apart from several introductory chapters, these have been arranged under the heads of regulation through franchises, regulation through municipal utility commissions, and regulation through state public utility commissions. There is need of the utility commission to enforce the franchise, since enforcement by the lawsuit, by legislative bodies, or by the people through the initiative and referendum has been inadequate and ineffectual. Of the two types of commission the advantage lies with the state commission, since it alone can secure all the data in particular instances, or in instances where a comparison between the utilities in different cities is needed.

In addition to the general discussions, chapters have been inserted under the several main heads to show in the concrete with what varying success the different methods of regulation have been tried in different states and cities. This feature, with the index and the bibliography, makes it a work valuable for both student and general reader.

The Wisconsin Idea. By CHARLES MCCARTHY. New York: Macmillan, 1912. 8vo, pp. xvi+323. \$1.50.

If one is to take the author's dedication "To the legislators, always criticized and never praised," as a statement of fact, he must find in this book the inevitable exception, for no group of legislators could desire a more sincere and honorable tribute than is herein rendered to those of Wisconsin. The writer's faith in the "Wisconsin idea" is quite evidently unequivocal and, as he shows, justly so. The progress which he describes as taking place in legislation in Wisconsin is of a nature to make anyone who has an interest in such matters desire to know more of it. He explains it as the work of men truly interested in good government and willing to do their utmost to attain it. The scientific way in which they have attempted to reach this end through co-operation with the state university and other expert service, and the careful way in which experimental legislation has been planned have resulted very fortunately for the state. It is true, however, as the author says, that the conditions in Wisconsin were especially favorable for such a course. The character of the people who settled the state was such that inflammatory measures and mere rhetoric would not win much following. With a volatile people or one ignorant of the object for which these men are striving the same results would not accrue. Detailed statements in regard to commissions that have been established, the legislative reference department, the affect on business of various measures, etc., give an insight into the spirit of that Wisconsin idea of which they are the expression.